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Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185



FEB 22 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL

john@greenewald.com

Mr. John Greenewald
The Black Vault
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter is in response to your July 20, 2016 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that you sent to the National Security Agency (NSA). You requested:

A copy of the Intellipedia entry (from all three Wikis that make up the Intellipedia) for the following entry(s) (Or whatever similar topic may pertain if it is slightly worded differently):

Nevada Test Site

The NSA located one document that contains Department of Energy (DOE) equities. DOE transferred the request and document to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) by copy of their November 29, 2016 letter to you, for a review and release determination. The request was received in this office on January 5, 2017.

We forwarded the document to NNSA's Nevada Field Office (NFO) for a review and release determination. Prior to our receipt, NSA deleted the URLs for Intelink pages and the name of an NSA affiliate pursuant to FOIA Exemption (b)(3), specifically Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 USC 3605) and FOIA Exemption (b)(6).

Otherwise, NFO reviewed the document and has no objections to its release.

John R. Chapman, NSA Chief FOIA/PA Office, is the person responsible for the denial of the above-mentioned information pursuant to Exemptions 3 and 6 of the FOIA.

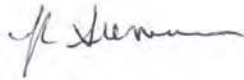
Any person denied access to information may file an appeal to the NSA/CSS Freedom of Information Act Appeal Authority. The appeal must be postmarked no later than 90 calendar days after the date of the initial denial. The appeal shall be in writing to the NSA/ CSS Freedom of Information Act Appeal Authority (P132), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6932, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932. The appeal shall reference the initial denial of access and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds under which the

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requester believes release of information is required. The NSA/CSS Freedom of Information Act Appeal Authority will endeavor to respond to the appeal within 20 working days after receipt, absent unusual circumstances.

There are no fees chargeable to you for processing this request. If you have questions concerning the processing of this request, please email Ms. Delilah Perez at Delilah.Perez@nnsa.doe.gov or write to the address above. Please reference Control Number FOIA 17-00039-M.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Summerson", written over a horizontal line.

Jane Summerson
Authorizing & Denying Official

Enclosure

DOCID: 4327459

(U) Nevada Test Site

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From Intellipedia


(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

You have new messages (last change).

From Intellipedia

The **Nevada Test Site** (NTS) is a United States Department of Energy reservation located in Nye County, Nevada, about 65 miles (105 km) northwest of the City of Las Vegas, near (37°07'N, 116°03'W - GDN



). Formerly known as the **Nevada Proving Ground** (NPG), the site, established on January 11, 1951 for the testing of nuclear weapons, is composed of approximately 1,350 square miles (3,500 km²) of desert and mountainous terrain. Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site began with a one-kiloton (4 terajoule) bomb dropped on Frenchman Flat on January 27, 1951. Many of the iconic images of the nuclear era come from the NTS. In 2010 the NTS changed its name again to the **Nevada National Security Site** (NNSS), to reflect the change of its missions above and beyond testing of nuclear weapons. To minimize confusion, all modern references should use the NNSS name, but NNSS = NTS = NPG. The name NTS will still frequently be used in historical discussion.

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Quick Facts

The Nevada Test Site has:

 Location: Map | Coordinates | About

Nevada Test Site

[[Image:November 1951 nuclear test at 300px]]

Nevada Test

caption=

November 1951 nuclear test at Nevada Test Site. Test is shot "Dog" from Operation Buster, with a yield of 21 kilotons. It was the first U.S. nuclear field exercise conducted on land; troops shown are a mere 6 miles from the blast.

Type

Location

Operator

Status

Active dates=
1951–present
remediation=
subcritical_tests=

In use

Testing

Nuclear tests

925+
thermonuclear_tests=

United States Locator Map

Map showing location of the site type=

Nuclear testing

Nevada Test Site

DOCID: 4327459

- 1,100 buildings
- 400 miles (643 km) paved roads
- 300 miles (482 km) unpaved roads
- 10 heliports
- 2 airstrips

History

1951–1992

Between 1951 and 1992, there were a total of 928 announced nuclear tests at Nevada Test Site. Of those, 828 were underground; seismic data have indicated there may have been many unannounced underground tests as well. The site is covered with subsidence craters from the testing. The Nevada Test Site was the primary testing location of American nuclear devices; only 129 tests were conducted elsewhere (many at the Pacific Proving Grounds in the Marshall Islands).

During the 1950s, the mushroom cloud from these tests could be seen for almost 100 miles in either direction, including the city of Las Vegas, where the tests became tourist attractions. Americans headed for Las Vegas to witness the distant mushroom clouds that could be seen from the downtown hotels.

On July 17, 1962 the test shot "Little Feller I" of Operation Sunbeam became the last atmospheric test detonation at the Nevada Test Site. Underground testing of weapons continued until September 23, 1992, and although the United States did not ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the articles of the treaty are nevertheless honored and further tests have not occurred. Tests not involving the full creation of a critical mass ("subcritical" testing) continue.

One notable test shot was the "Sedan" shot of Operation Storax, a 104 kiloton shot for the Operation Plowshare which sought to prove that nuclear weapons could be used for peaceful means in creating bays or canals—it created a crater 1,280 feet (390 m) wide and 320 feet (100 m) deep that can still be seen today. While most of the larger tests were conducted elsewhere, NTS was home to tests in the 500 kiloton to 1 megaton (2 to 4 petajoule) range, which caused noticeable seismic effects in Las Vegas.

1992–Present

The site was scheduled to be used to conduct the testing of a 1100-ton conventional explosive in an operation known as Divine Strake in June 2006. The bomb is a possible alternative to nuclear bunker busters, which Congress has been reluctant to fund, despite support from President Bush^[1]. However, after objection from Nevada and Utah members of Congress, the operation was postponed until 2007. On 22 February 2007 the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) officially canceled the experiment.

As of 2004, the test site offers public tours on approximately a monthly basis, although the taking of souvenir material is prohibited. Additionally, all image taking and communication devices are prohibited.

While there are no longer any explosive tests of nuclear weapons at the site, there is still subcritical testing, used to determine the viability of the United States' aging nuclear arsenal. Additionally, the site is the location of the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex, which sorts and stores low-level radioactive waste that is not transuranic and has a half life of no greater than 20 years. Bechtel runs this complex.

Located at the ground zero for the Apple II nuclear test is the Transportation Incident Exercise Site, which replicates multiple terrorist radiological incidents with train, plane, automobile, truck, and helicopter props.

Landmarks and Geography

The town of Mercury, Nevada is located on the grounds of the NTS, and at one time housed contingents from Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories. Area 51 and the proposed high-level nuclear waste storage facility at Yucca Mountain are located nearby. The Bare Reactor Experiment Nevada Tower

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or BREN Tower, a 465 meter high guyed tower originally for radiation experiments with an unshielded reactor simulating the amounts of radiation received by survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, was located in the NTS at Jackass Flats. It was demolished on May 23, 2012.

Cancer and Test Site

In a report by the National Cancer Institute, released in 1997, it was determined that ninety atmospheric tests at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) deposited high levels of radioactive iodine-131 (5.5 exabecquerels) across a large portion of the contiguous United States, especially in the years 1952, 1953, 1955, and 1957—doses large enough, they determined, to produce 10,000 to 75,000 cases of thyroid cancer. The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 allowed for people living downwind of NTS for at least two years in particular Nevada, Arizona or Utah counties, between January 21, 1951 – October 31, 1958 or June 30, 1962 – July 31, 1962, and suffering from certain cancers or other serious illnesses deemed to have been caused by fallout exposure to receive compensation of \$50,000. By January 2006, over 10,500 claims had been approved, and around 3,000 denied, for a total amount of over \$525 million in compensation dispensed to "downwinders" ^[2]. Uranium miners, mill workers and ore transporters are also eligible for \$100,000 compassionate payment under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program, while \$75,000 is the fixed payment amount for workers who were participants in the above-ground nuclear weapons tests.

Nuclear test series carried out at Nevada Test Site

- Operation Ranger — 1951
- Operation Buster-Jangle — 1951
- Operation Tumbler-Snapper — 1952
- Operation Upshot-Knothole — 1953
- Operation Teapot — 1955
- Project 56 — 1955
- Operation Plumbbob — 1957
- Project 57, 58, 58A — 1957–1958
- Operation Hardtack II — 1958
- Operation Nougat — 1961–1962
- Operation Plowshare — 1961–1973 (sporadic, at least one test a year)
- Operation Sunbeam — 1962
- Operation Dominic II — 1962–1963
- Operation Storax — 1963
- Operation Niblick — 1963–1964
- Operation Whetstone — 1964–1965
- Operation Flintlock — 1965–1966
- Operation Latchkey — 1966–1967
- Operation Crosstie — 1967–1968
- Operation Bowline — 1968–1969
- Operation Mandrel — 1969–1970
- Operation Emery — 1970
- Operation Grommet — 1971–1972
- Operation Toggle — 1972–1973
- Operation Arbor — 1973–1974
- Operation Bedrock — 1974–1975
- Operation Anvil — 1975–1976
- Operation Fulcrum — 1976–1977
- Operation Crescent — 1977–1978
- Operation Quicksilver — 1978–1979
- Operation Tinderbox — 1979–1980
- Operation Guardian — 1980–1981
- Operation Praetorian — 1981–1982
- Operation Phalanx — 1982–1983
- Operation Fusileer — 1983–1984
- Operation Grenadier — 1984–1985
- Operation Charioteer — 1985–1986
- Operation Musketeer — 1986–1987
- Operation Touchstone — 1987–1988
- Operation Cornerstone — 1988–1989
- Operation Aqueduct — 1989–1990
- Operation Sculpin — 1990–1991
- Operation Julin — 1991–1992

Gallery

See also

- U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

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- BREN Tower
- Upshot-Knothole Grable (Frenchman Flat)
- Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF)
- Ula Experimental Facility
- National Atomic Testing Museum

(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

References

1. : <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/30/AR2006033001735.html>
2. † http://www.usdoj.gov/civil/omp/omi/Tre_SysClaimsToDateSum.pdf

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